



Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
Date:	November 5, 2014
Time:	7:00pm
Location:	Renaissance Academy, 3435 North 1120 East, Lehi, UT. 1 st floor in the Rousseau room (southwest corner classroom)
Next Meeting:	January 21, 2015

Attendee Information			
Board Members		Invited Guests	
Attended	Name	Attended	Name
x	Carolyn Bayly, Board Chair	x	Jared VanOrden
x	Mariah Fralick, Board Vice Chair	Public in Attendance	
x	Ryan Hunter, Treasurer	Attended	Name
x	Cameron Sabin, Board Member	x	Scott Larsen
x	Jennifer Orten, Board Member	x	Camden Larsen
Schoolhouse		x	Chris Wareham
Attended	Name	x	Mike Bentley
x	Mark Ursic, Executive Director	x	Drew Wright
x	Stephanie McCappin, Dean		
x	Holly Lyons, Executive Assistant		

Motions and Approvals			
#	Motion made by	Motion	Vote
1	Cameron Sabin	Cameron moved to put to vote whether Chris Wareham should be voted onto the board.	Ryan Hunter seconded. The Board engaged in a closed ballot vote. The majority vote was in favor. Chris Wareham was voted back onto the Board.
2	Cameron Sabin	Cameron moved to approve the UCA Application.	Jennifer Orten seconded. All voted in favor.
3	Ryan Hunter	Ryan moved to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2014 Board Meeting.	Cameron Sabin seconded. The majority voted in favor.
4	Cameron Sabin	Cameron moved to approve the 2015-2016 Calendar.	Jennifer Orten seconded. All voted in favor.
5	Cameron Sabin	Cameron moved to go to a closed session as described under Section 52-4-204 for: <i>“(a) discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and (d) strategy sessions to discuss the purchasing, exchange, lease or sale of real</i>	Mariah Fralick seconded. All voted in favor by name.

		<i>property.”</i>	
6	Mariah Fralick	Mariah Fralick Moved to close the meeting.	Ryan Hunter Seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.

Time	Topic/Subject Discussion
7:06pm	Welcome and Call to Order.
7:06pm	<p>Motion. Cameron made a motion to vote on whether Chris Wareham should be voted onto the board. Ryan seconded. The Board engaged in a closed ballot vote. The majority vote was yea. Chris Wareham was voted back onto the Board.</p> <p>Carolyn announced that there are other candidates that have applied for positions on the Board, and that those candidates are currently going through the application process, which entails attending the following Board meetings and reading the Board policies, as well as a follow up interview.</p>
7:09pm	<p>Red Apple Update</p> <p>Mark requested the revised revenues at last month’s meeting, and now they have been updated according to the correct student count. Jared pointed out that in the reserves, the school earns a little month-by-month. He said the cash-on-hand and the building payments are looking positive. Ten students left the school in October.</p> <p>Jared asked the Board what operating margin they are shooting for this year, and they responded 3%. Mark said another target is the debt coverage service ratio at 1.25.</p> <p>The Board wondered whether the highlighted lines on the budget report had been totaled. Jared replied that the highlighted items were suggested cuts, but had not been added up. It was pointed out that lines 1752 and 611A zero each other out. Mark mentioned line items that could come down and said those changes would need to be made between now and the next board meeting, when he had some feedback from the Board about which items to focus on.</p> <p>Mariah asked about fieldtrip expenses in line 590. Jared said that line represents expenses so far. The Board requested to have the “Donations” category broken down into categories. Carolyn advised that the finance committee meet in order to bring changes to the next Board Meeting.</p>
7:20pm	<p>A member of the public in attendance, Camden Larson, introduced himself. He explained that he is 12 years old, a 7th grader, and a Boy Scout in troop 1094. He came to the meeting for a citizenship in the community requirement. Carolyn asked for Camden to state his favorite thing about the school as well as one thing about the school that he would change. Camden said he likes how the school keeps the students safe. He declined to provide suggestions for changes.</p>
7:23pm	<p>UCA Application Update</p> <p>Mark presented the Board with a document providing an overview of all the funding streams the school expects. Each stream is tied to a specific goal for the school. Mark described why the school would waive the money tied to Title IA, explaining that the paperwork required to receive those funds would cost too much in labor for what it is worth.</p> <p>In regards to the funds tied to the school’s reading goals, Mark talked about the new role of Tracy Scott as the Reading Specialist. As the Reading Specialist, Tracy oversees teachers, does professional development, focuses on K-3 reading needs, and addresses individual student challenges. She has a</p>

Level I and a Level II reading endorsement, so she is highly qualified. The goal for the reading section of the application in the 2015 year is to increase 3rd-9th Language Arts proficiency from 46.6% to 50.6%.

The state goal for 3rd grade Language Arts proficiency is 77% (determined through DIBELS scores). The goal for Renaissance Academy is 83% proficiency. Jennifer asked whether DIBELS and SAGE are related, and they are not. DIBELS is a stand-alone reading assessment. Mark explained to the board how preparation and practice for DIBELS has functioned in the past, and he described the plan laid out in his handout that would improve upon that preparation process for students. It was pointed out that the approach in the grading policy—formative vs. summative—would be helpful in assessing reading in preparation for state testing. Special Education money is getting allocated to intensive Special Education reading groups. There are teachers here for that 4/5 days in the week.

In the World Language program, Julie Walker is pushing teachers to implement differentiated instruction. Mariah asked how closely the lessons are being observed. Mark answered that the classes get observed on a regular basis at random, by Julie. She recently sat down with the World Language team, completed their first evaluations and set some goals with them. In January, she will do another round of classroom observations and follow up on goals.

Every year Mark ensures that teacher salaries are competitive with surrounding schools by conducting an informal audit of surrounding schools and keeping within the top 15% of public school employment packages in Utah County. This is in keeping with the fourth goal to support the development of highly qualified teachers. This goal requires handling the challenge of wage compression.

Title IIA is tied to teacher professional development, and a big part of professional development is to make sure teachers have the opportunity to get the training they need. Providing competitive salaries and PD geared towards HQT requirements will help the school achieve Goal 4. There is also a mentoring program, uniquely tailored to the school. The program includes group instruction every other Friday, which gives mentees exposure to multiple mentors.

Goal 5 is regarding the professional environment at Renaissance Academy. There are no fiscal resources for this goal. Mark included major school goals in the document even if they were not tied to funding, just to keep all the goals in a central place. Goal 6 includes providing differentiation in instruction, especially in 5th-8th grades. Mark asked the Board if they had questions about why these were the goals. Mariah asked if they could talk about how the goals would be accomplished. Mariah read aloud the teacher retention goal. She asked Mark to describe the importance of adequate prep time, which was mentioned in this goal. Mark explained how prioritizing prep time in teacher's schedules can benefit teacher relations, the quality of instruction, and the needs of specific students. They can even use this time to bring the Reading Specialist in to talk about individual students or to prepare for SAGE testing.

Mariah asked if parent volunteer fieldtrip coordinators would be helpful. Mark said there are a few different areas where ad hoc committees would be needed, but his idea would be to have primarily teachers on those committees, with some parents contributing for creativity and input.

8:00pm **Motion.** Cameron moved to approve the UCA Application. Jennifer seconded. The majority voted in favor.

8:08pm **SAGE Results** *(See PowerPoint print out)*
Mark presented Renaissance Academy SAGE scores through a series of statistics comparing the school to other surrounding schools. Chris asked why near-by schools scored better in comparison. Mark

	<p>explained to Chris that the presented comparison was not fully accurate, because the chart shows our schools next to only elementary schools. The middle school scores brought our proficiency percentages down significantly. At a parent meeting on Wednesday, November 19th parents will be given individual student reports.</p> <p>Ryan pointed out that the grading in SAGE is similar to the standards-based grading the school is now using. Cameron suggested that for teachers who are not enthused over standards-based grading, it might be beneficial to point out how it would boost state test performance.</p> <p>Jennifer suggested a RAPP announcement informing parents about the school's SAGE scores.</p>
8:29pm	<p>Partnership with UVU The UVU Community Continuing Education program has three different booklets that go to 100,000 people throughout the year. Renaissance has partnered with this UVU program to offer adult language classes in the evenings. In addition there will be a Zumba class and a Scratch coding class. Teachers will get paid by UVU, and Renaissance Academy will get ads in the UVU Continuing Education catalogue.</p>
8:37pm	<p>Prospective Middle School Trips Stephanie presented two proposals of student trips as part of the student retention initiative. One trip would send 7th graders to California, and the other would be for 8th and 9th grades to see Washington, D.C. and New York City. Both trips tie in with school curriculum. Mark and Stephanie asked for Board feedback and presented the itineraries for each trip. The trips would encourage 6th grader interest in the RA Middle School and could also be leveraged as incentives for good behavior. The Administration and Board had a discussion about potential dates for these trips, but no decision was made.</p>
8:58pm	<p>Approval of Minutes Ryan moved to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2014 Board Meeting. Cameron Seconded. The majority voted in favor.</p>
9:03pm	<p>Construction Update Carolyn asked about the construction on the space center and the completion date. Mark detailed the delays, including construction plans and Winter break, and said he would expect completion to land on the third week in February.</p>
9:04pm	<p>Mark and Stephanie presented a document of teacher feedback that had been gathered in order to have examples of the current teacher perception of the Renaissance Academy work-place climate. This teacher feedback was given in anticipation of the FEC/Parent meeting regarding teacher retention scheduled for Thursday, November 6th. The Board asked that another announcement about the Thursday parent meeting go out over Facebook. Mark summarized to the Board the plan for the meeting, which would include a PowerPoint presentation and a question and answer session. Thirty teachers reported that they would be in attendance at the meeting. Mark had asked parents to submit questions for the meeting, but no questions had been submitted at that point.</p>
9:16pm	<p>Motion. Cameron moved to approve the 2015-2016 Calendar. Jennifer seconded. All voted in favor.</p>
9:17pm	<p>Motion. Cameron moved to go to a closed session as described under Section 52-4-204 for: "(a) discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and (d) strategy sessions to discuss the purchasing, exchange, lease or sale of real property." Mariah seconded. All voted in favor by name.</p>
9:17pm	<p><i>Closed session</i></p>
10:10pm	<p><i>Back into open session</i></p>
10:10pm	<p>Motion. Mariah moved to close the meeting. Ryan seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.</p>